

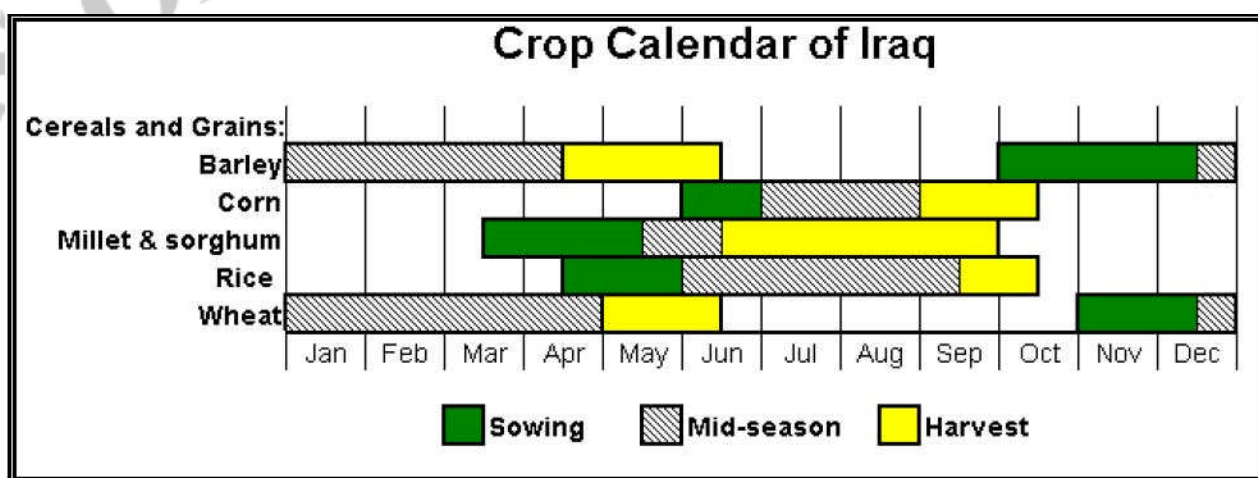
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September Report – Week 4

September 26th, 2008

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most. Lower production is also expected in the central and southern governorates.
2. Summer crop production for MY 2008/09 is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to drought conditions and irrigation limitations. The most significant production decreases are expected in the central and southern governorates (Figure 1).
*Time series data on provincial summer crop statistics are needed to establish a historical baseline dataset.
3. The rice crop as of September 13th, 2008 was showing significant green-up (Figure 2). The current planted area for An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah is approximately 60,000 to 61,000 hectares (Figure 3). Rice harvest typically begins in mid-September.
4. Average temperature remains slightly above normal for the central and southern governorates (Figure 4); however, the last month has seen an overall decreasing trend in average temperature as the winter crop season approaches (Figure 5). Heavy precipitation is expected in the upper Tigris and Euphrates watershed with light precipitation expected in the Kurdish provinces, but conditions will remain dry for the following week. Significant precipitation in Iraq is not expected until the month of October.



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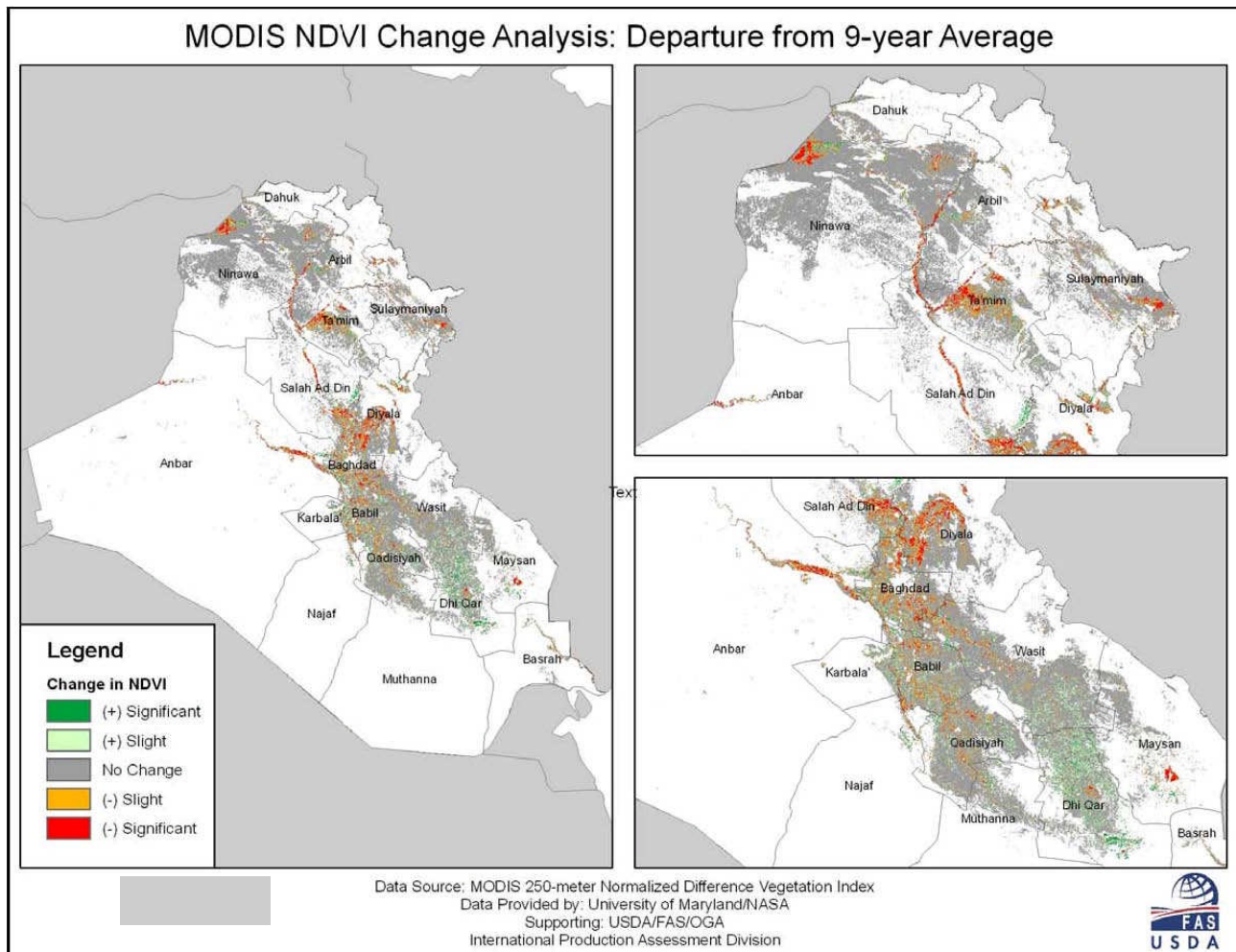


Figure 1: MODIS NDVI departure from 9-year average: August 28th to September 12th.

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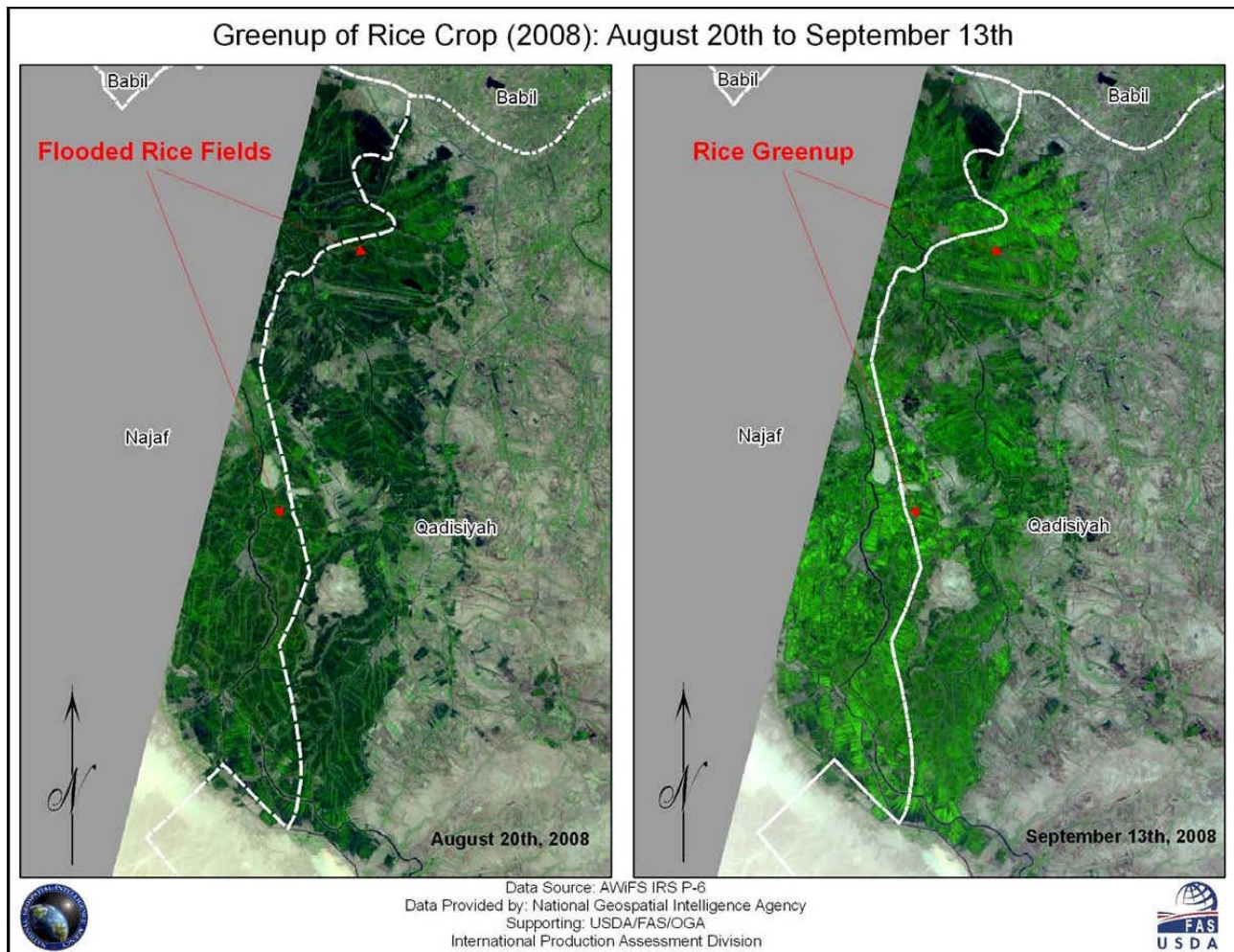


Figure 2: Green-up of rice crop in An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah: August 20th to September 13th.

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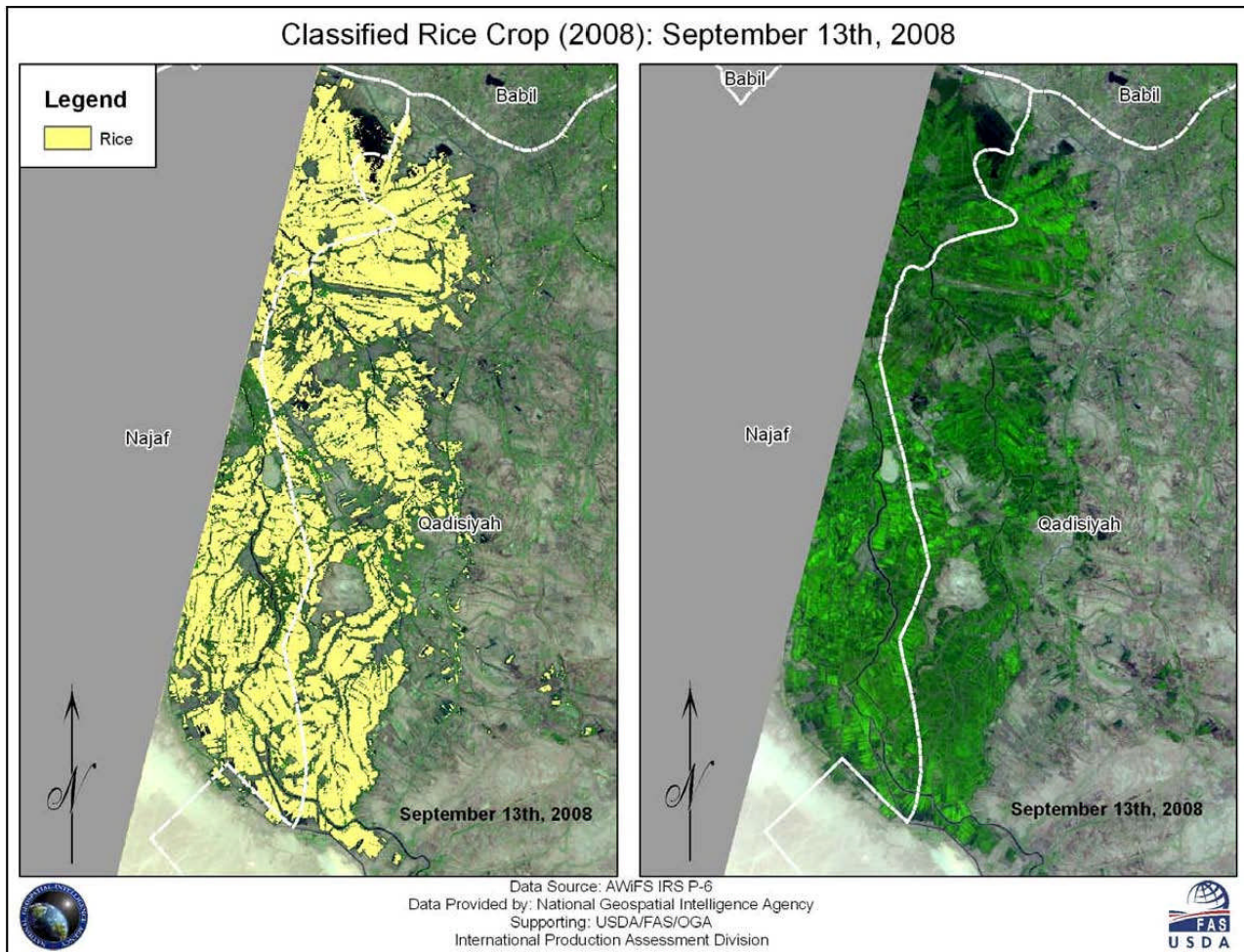


Figure 3: Classified rice crop: AWiFS IRS P6 imagery acquired on September 13th, 2008.

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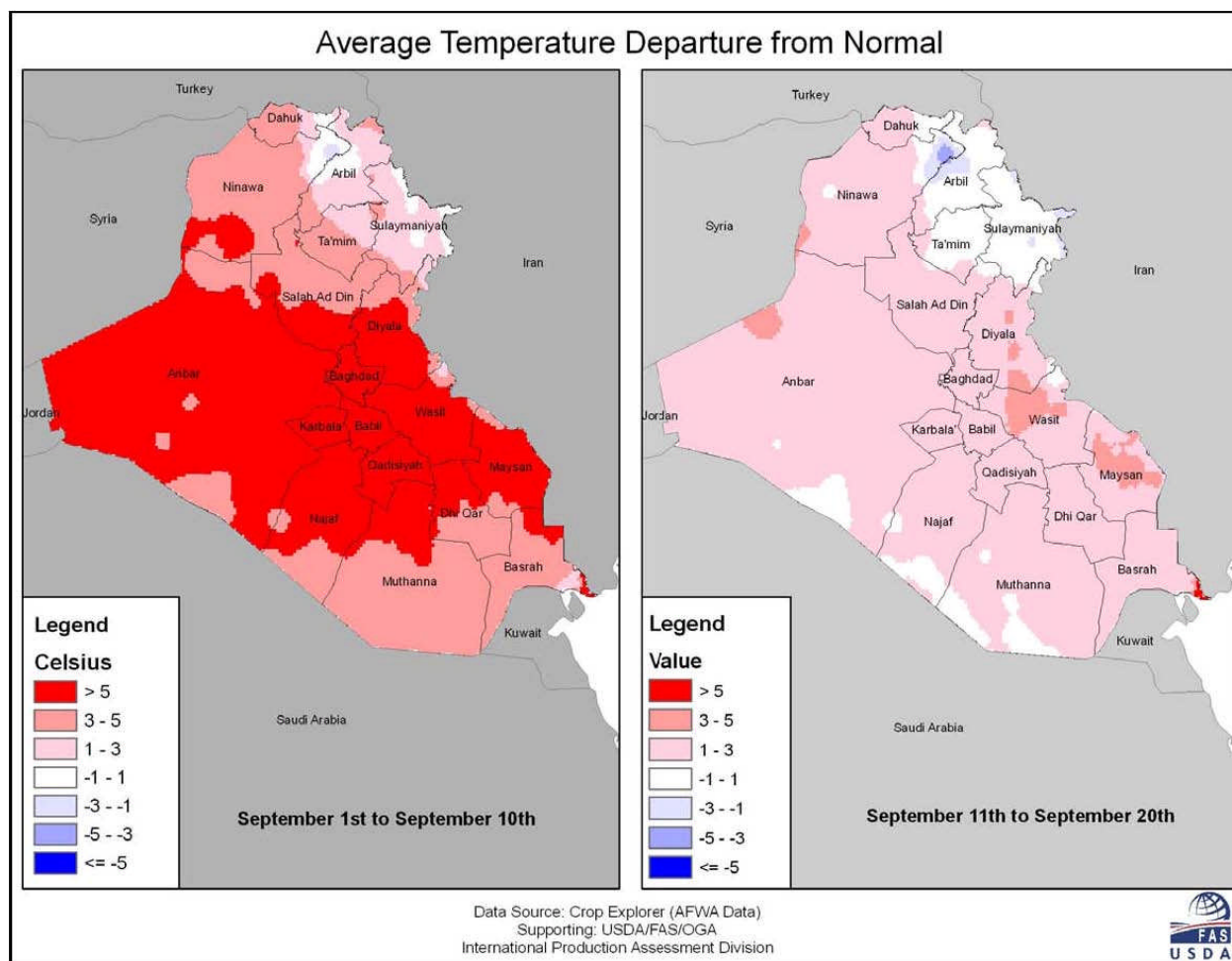


Figure 4: Average temperature departure from normal: Current dekad compared to previous.

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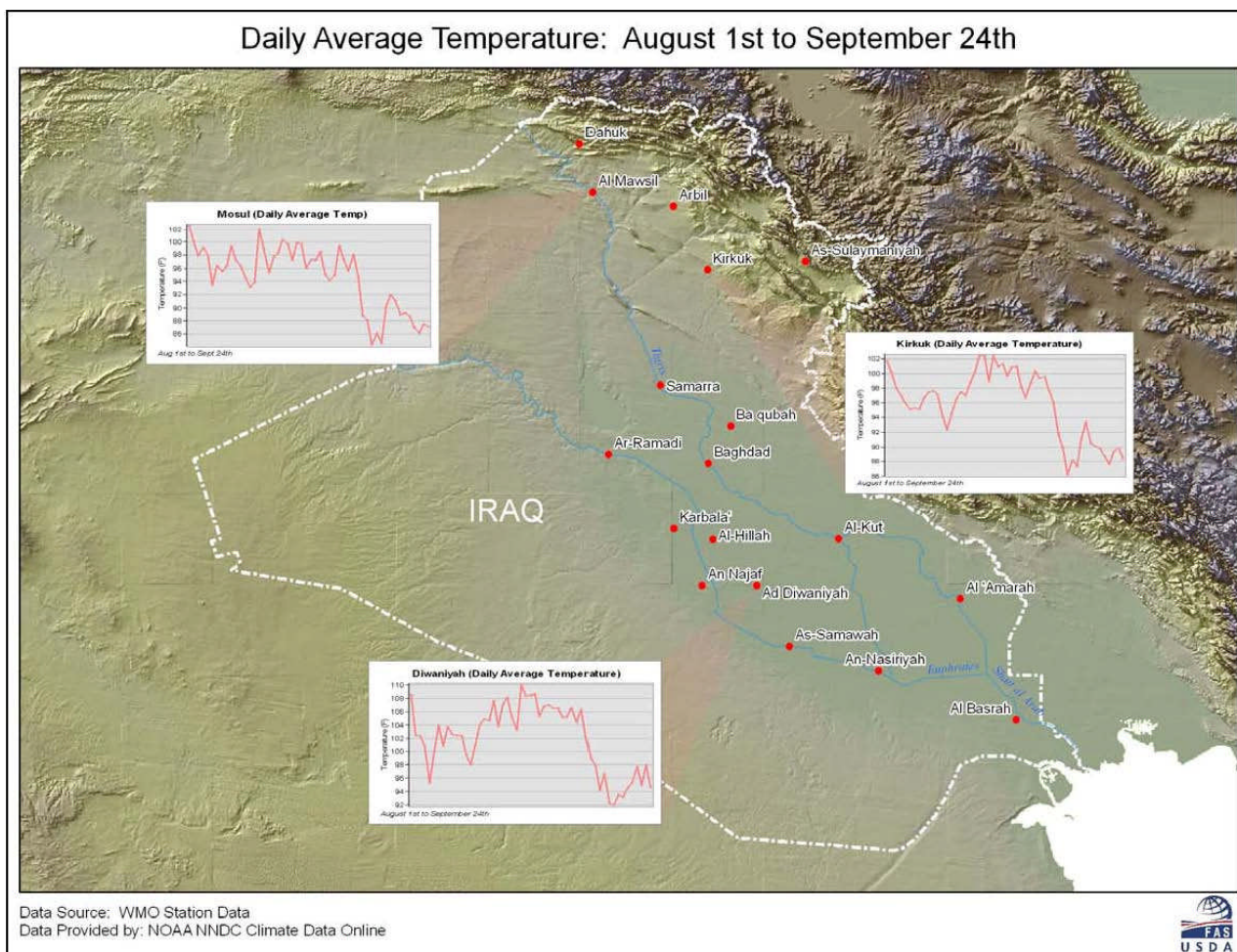


Figure 5: WMO stations data: Average daily temperature from August 1st, 2008 to September 24th, 2008.

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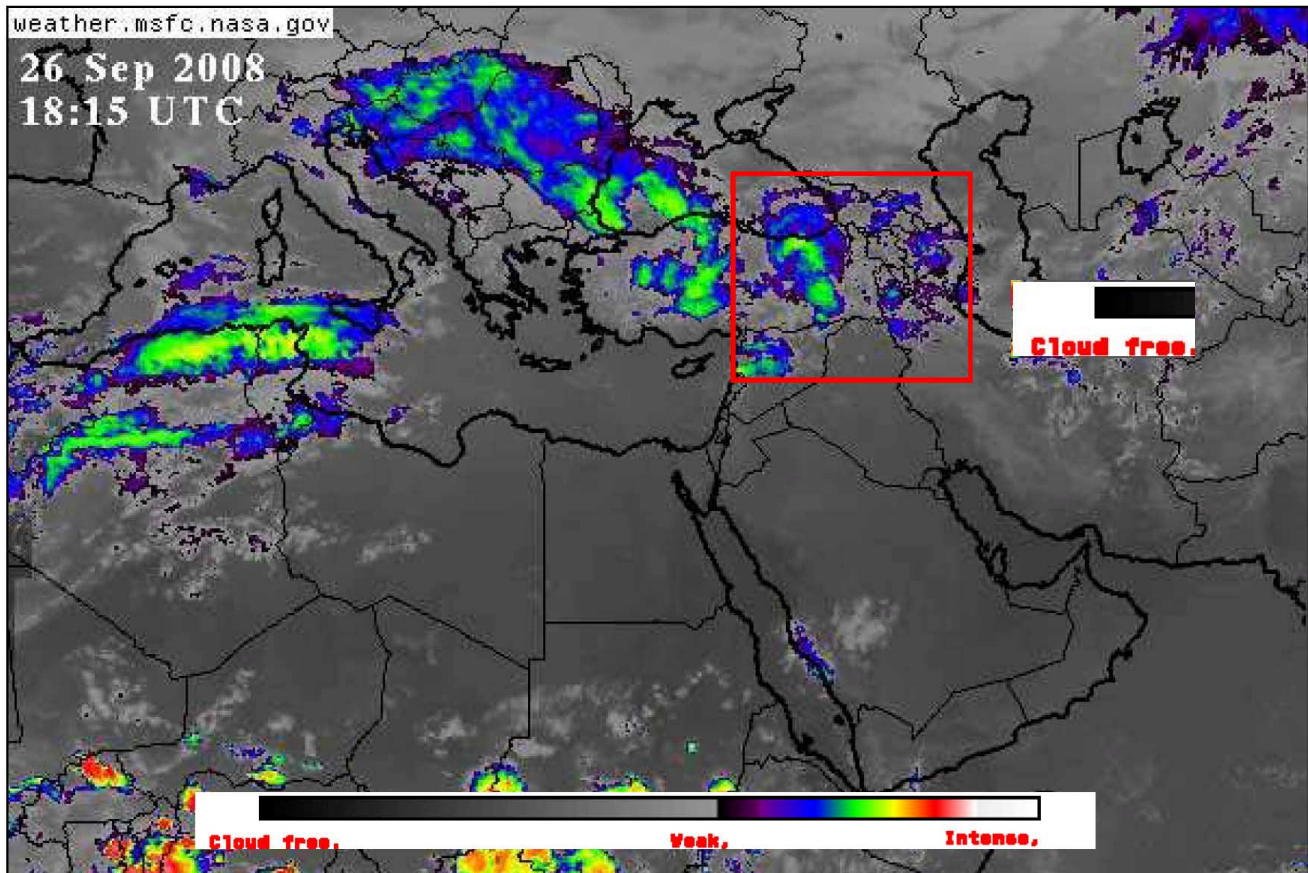


Figure 6: Current infrared weather satellite data. Precipitation is expected from the moderate weather system moving over southern Turkey.